



# NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

## APPROVED MINUTES

October 10, 2019

City Council Chambers

212 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

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**Attendees:** Wayne Feiden, Richard Parasiliti, Ashley Muspratt, Bill Dwight, Gordon Meadows, Alisa Klein, Adin Maynard.

**Facilitator:** Chris Mason

**Scribe:** Douglas Renick

### **Public Comment Period:**

Sharon Moulton: There is a need more people to sign on to the letter supporting H.2810. Feel free to forward it to others to sign.

Lilly Lombard: Lilly shared updated comments of the Tree Commission on the Resiliency and Regeneration Plan (R&R Plan), a one-page summary. The Tree Commission has been doing high level thinking about the R&R Plan. The plan is hard to read and navigate, jargon filled, hard to process. Question: how is this plan an arm of the master plan (Sustainable Northampton)? Climate change will affect all departments. Does it make sense to have this as separate from the master plan. There is little mention of the role of urban forest. The master plan should be detailed on how we get to 45% reduction in emissions. (see the one-page summary submitted by Lilly) Columbia Gas has been forced to stop all gas leak work. Northampton has old gas pipes, an aging pipe system, which leaks all the time. In a survey of gas leaks we found double the number of leaks that Columbia had reported, one was grade 1 and one grade 2. Gas leaks damage trees. Methane leaks are very strong greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Review/Approve minutes of 9/12/19 meeting:**

Bill Dwight moved and Alisa Klein seconded. Unanimously approved as amended.

### **Public Shade Tree Commission Briefing, Lilly Lombard:**

It was agreed that this briefing will occur in the November 14 meeting.

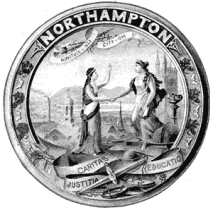
### **Climate Resiliency and Regeneration Plan:**

Presentation by Wayne Feiden. The master plan presented bigger framework issues. How do we update the plan? Areas to be addressed: Social equity, Walking/Biking, Resiliency and Regeneration as separate parts can be updated. Revising the master plan will slow down a bit. Start in calendar year 2021 and complete in 2022. Now comprehensive plans are adopted by the Planning Board. The Planning Office manages the plans. The School Department is independent on the education side but not on the maintenance side. Other departments are more integrated. There is the overall comprehensive plan and then separate documents for different department plans. Social equity issues (slides): regeneration (mitigation), resiliency (adaptation). Characteristics and values—how regeneration and resiliency

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**Voting Members:** William Dwight • Wayne Feiden • Louis Hasbrouck • Alisa Klein • Adin Maynard • Gordon Meadows • Ashley Muspratt • Richard Parasiliti • David Pomerantz • Tim Smith • Ben Weil

**Ex-officio, non voting:** Chris Mason



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improve our community. In Northampton sustainability cuts across department functions. It is a system and this can be forgotten, if we go too deep in the weeds. Resiliency framework: thrive with acute stress, thrive with chronic stress, sustainability and community health. Northampton designs with nature: storm water, reduce flood potential, existing utilities, etc. Flood control dikes need to be assessed.

Regeneration framework: global covenant of mayors, 80% GHG reduction by 2050, carbon neutral by 2050. Can the NESC get its comments into the R&R Plan? Timeframe: no deadline. Some grants dependent on our completing the plans. Metrics on emissions are not complete. An approach is to put in the plan the collection of data we need for metrics. GHG emissions inventory pie chart. Our data is flawed and other cities data is also flawed. Five big focus areas: Transportation, Land Use, Thermal loads, Electric loads, Natural Systems. We are working in all these areas. Northampton Mid Case GHG Emissions Projection—we don't have a lot of the data we need. Framework recommendations. Now every department does a maintenance and capital budget. What about carbon budgets for departments? What about an internal carbon tax? What's aspirational and what's achievable?

How do we get comments into the plan? Let's hear the comments. We've been working this a year and a half, but comments haven't been heard yet. There is value in the Commission's agreeing on its comments on the plan. People should sit with the plan and write their comments down. Are there people willing to take individual comments and put them together for the Commission to agree on? Volunteers: Adin, Gordon, Ashley, Lilly. The small group will bring their comment recommendations to the November 14 NESC meeting.

Metrics. Metrics and review. Review has to do with timelines. Collecting data on a regular basis. We can set "absolutes." Example: by this date all buildings will be off fossil fuel.

Comments about lack of urgency in the plan. Achievable vs Aspirational. Urgency is there. We will be as aggressive as we can be to meet our objectives. We don't have sticks we can use. We have incentives. We can emphasize the objectives for 2030, but we may not be able to meet the objectives. We only have so much control. We have to do what we can do. Plan needs to focus on public education. How do we utilize community members to make the shift we need to make. Do plans ask for more resources? The city needs someone to do public outreach.

**Municipal Support of H.2810 Jen Benson's carbon pollution pricing bill:** Not discussed.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Alisa Klein and seconded by Bill Dwight. Unanimously approved.

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